

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, August 22, 2003

COMMANDERS GETTING NEW FLEXIBILITY IN SCHEDULING OFFICERS TO BETTER COMBAT NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME PROBLEMS

Chief Ramsey is providing police commanders with greater flexibility to schedule police officers when and where they are needed most to combat neighborhood crime problems. Beginning Monday, August 25, the Chief is suspending Section 1, Article 24 of the collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police. As a result, commanders will be able to adjust officers' schedules or assignments – for example, putting more officers on a particular shift or in a uniformed or plainclothes assignment – without providing officers the usual 14-day notice required under the contract. The action will remain in effect until at least October 1, at which time it will be evaluated and adjusted as necessary. Noting that all seven districts are experiencing a spike in one or more crime types, the Chief has directed each district commander to develop a comprehensive crime-fighting strategy that focuses on those crimes that are on the rise. To implement these strategies, he said, commanders need greater flexibility in scheduling officers to target changing conditions or specific locations, offenders and factors that contribute to crime. Ramsey emphasized that the recent increases in crime are not the result of a lack of effort or performance on the part of officers. He noted that so far this year, Metropolitan Police officers have made more than 32,000 arrests and seized 1,250 firearms.

- ① Read the complete news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2274>

MPDC SEEKS SUSPECTS IN TWO SEXUAL ASSAULT PATTERNS

The MPDC's Sexual Assault Unit is seeking the public's assistance in two separate patterns of sexual assaults in the District, taking place in two different parts of the city. The first pattern dates back to 1996 and involves a male suspect who offers rides to women in Southeast DC, then drives them to remote areas in Charles County, MD, and assaults them there. Charles County Sheriff's Police have linked a crime of this nature that occurred on August 13 with earlier offenses that fit the pattern. The suspect is described as a black male, 37–42 years of age, wearing a red polo shirt and green cargo shorts. In the latest attack, he was driving a teal-blue Nissan Altima or four-door Honda Civic. The second pattern involves adult female victims who were assaulted in the upper end of the Third District and the lower end of 4D. Two attempted sexual assaults occurred in late June, and a woman was raped in the laundry room of her apartment building on August 13. At this time, there is no conclusive evidence that the crimes are related, but the circumstances and suspect description are similar. The MPDC has developed composite sketches of the suspects in both patterns. Crime Solvers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to an indictment in either case; individuals may call anonymously to 1-800-673-2777.

- ① View a composite of the suspect in the Southeast/Charles County pattern at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2271>
- ① View a suspect composite in the Northwest DC pattern at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2263>
- ① Learn more about the DC Crime Solvers program at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/solvers/solvers.shtml>

6D AND AMERICAN SKYLINE INSURANCE TEAM UP TO TACKLE AUTO THEFT

Every police district is experiencing a rise in auto thefts this year, but in the Sixth District the increase has been particularly dramatic—a more than 50 percent jump year to date. To help residents combat the problem of auto theft in DC, the Sixth District and American Skyline Insurance Company are teaming up to host a motor vehicle anti-theft device giveaway. The event will be held on Saturday, August 30, from 11 am to 3 pm, at the Boys & Girls Club located at 4103 Benning Road, NE. Free anti-theft devices will be available to any DC resident. To be eligible, individuals must present a valid DC driver's license and motor vehicle registration.

MPDC CRACKS DOWN ON FRAUDULENT TEMPORARY VEHICLE TAGS

DC residents have long complained about the use of fraudulent temporary vehicle registration tags by auto thieves and other criminals. This past week, members of the Focused Mission Team in the Fifth District took action, executing six search warrants in connection with an ongoing investigation into the sale and transfer of fraudulently issued and altered temporary registration tags. The operation was part of a larger investigation into auto thefts in 5D. Focused Mission Team officers checked licenses and tags at various auto dealerships in the Northeast quadrant of the city. Officers also reminded these dealerships about the regulations surrounding the issuance and use of temporary registration tags. Officers then conducted an undercover operation in which they were able to purchase temporary registrations and tags that were allegedly altered or illegally issued. Warrants were executed at six car dealerships in Northeast. Three individuals were arrested, and various items, including a 2002 Hummer, a handgun, financial records, registration tags and computers, were recovered. The investigation, which includes other MPDC units as well as the FBI and the IRS is continuing.

NEWS & NOTES

Smooth Operator—Wave IV. This summer's Smooth Operator anti-aggressive driving campaign wraps up, August 24-30, in DC and surrounding communities. Officers will once again be targeting speeding, tailgating, improper lane changes and other aggressive driving behavior. Details at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/smoothop.shtm>.

Merchants Safety Workshop. The DC Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, the Mayor's Office of Community Outreach and the MPDC's Asian Liaison Unit are hosting a business safety workshop for merchants in Ward 8, Thursday, August 28, 2-4 pm, at the Anacostia Professional Building, 2041 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, SE. For details, call Julie Koo at (202) 727-3120.

Drug Free Zones. Drug free zone is in effect this weekend in portions of the First, Fifth and Seventh Police Districts, with additional zones planned for next weekend. Details on the Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtm>.

- ① More details are available at:
<http://www.mpdcc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=2260>
- ① For information on auto theft prevention, including DC's Watch Your Car program, visit:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/autotheft.shtm>
- ① Read the complete news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2268>
- ① For information on the rules and regulations governing vehicle registration in DC, visit the Department of Motor Vehicles website at:
<http://www.dmv.washingtondc.gov/serv/registration/registration.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 8/22/03)

- 2003: 166
- 2002: 158
- % Change: +5.1%

Arrests (week ending 8/9/03)

- Total: 837
- Drugs: 105
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 17
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 26

Firearm Recoveries (as of 8/19/03)

- Total: 1,246
- August: 105

Traffic Fatalities (as of 8/22/03)

- 2003: 43
- 2002: 39
- % Change: +10.2%